(d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for increasing exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

1) The Technology Upgradation Found Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.
2) The current Export Entilement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 is expected to provide stability with continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
5) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.
6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments has been allowed.

Reduction in Custom Duty on Textiles

@2011. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States of America has demanded reduction in custom duty on Indian clothes, yarn, industrial textiles and home furnishings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and USA in 1994. As per clause 4 and 5 (b) of the MoU, India has notified the binding at reduced levels for certain textile products indicated in the MoU. These textile products include fibres, yarns, industrial fabrics and home furnishings, besides others.

@Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.